



Locust Leaves

Please join us for worship.
Sunday School: 10:30
Worship: 10:30

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THIS MONTH

Sundays —

Women's Bible Study 6 to 7 p.m.
Midway Students 5 to 7 p.m.

Mondays — 6:30 p.m.
Boy Scout Troop 68

Wednesdays —

Midway Hotel Lunch—Noon
Choir Rehearsal — 6:29 p.m.

Second Wednesdays —
Compassionate Friends 4—5 p.m.

Thursdays — 9-4:00

Sewcial open sewing
Yoga at 11:00
Men's Bible Study 6:00 p.m.
1st and 3rd—Twice Blessed

Sunday, April 2 — 10:30 a.m.

Palm Sunday Service
April 6 — 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, April 7 — 1 p.m.—6 p.m.
Good Friday Prayer Vigil

Saturday, April 8 — 11 a.m.

Egg Hunt, Lunch with Easter Bunny
Sunday April 9

Easter

Sunrise Service — 6:30 a.m.
Outdoor Service — 10:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 11 — Noon
Second Tuesday Lunch

Monday, April 17 — 7 p.m.
Ministry Council Meeting



The Danny Coleman Memorial - Transformational Home

Last fall, our church received a generous donation of a house and 5 acres of land. As the donor and I discussed options of what the church might do with the property, one idea resonated with them. In this season in the life of our church, a season of transformation for us as a body of believers, it is the perfect time to move forward with our plans for the "Danny Coleman Memorial - Transformational Home."

This ministry will be unlike anything we have ever done. Working with Habitat for Humanity, Love Columbia, and others to gather a list of families who might be an excellent fit for us, we will interview and select a family experiencing housing instability. After choosing a family, we will enter a covenant relationship with them and provide stable housing for 18-24 months. Our goal is for the family to be in a great position to purchase or rent a permanent home of their own after their time with us ends.

The covenant is clear. While the family resides in our home, each member must attend our Sunday morning worship services regularly. All minors will be required to participate in Midway Kids or Midway Students. In addition to the Spiritual aspect, our church will serve the family in 3 other areas: Professional, Financial, and Educational. Our businesspeople will come alongside the adults to help create resumes, teach interview skills, and assist with the application process for solid, good-paying jobs with benefits. Our financial people will help the family build and maintain a monthly budget, open a savings account, and meet with them regularly for accountability in not taking on any new debt. Our educators will help every student in the home with tutoring, homework, studying for tests, and any other academic needs that arise. This holistic approach to serving a family in every area of their lives moves this ministry area from just another transitional house to a one-of-a-kind transformational home.

After all the stories I have heard about the character and qualities of Danny Coleman, it only fits that a one-of-a-kind ministry bears his name and keeps his legacy alive. It is our prayer that the Danny Coleman Memorial - Transformational Home will do just that for years to come!

PS - Check out this month's centerfold collage for pictures of the recent clean-up day at the property, the first steps in turning this house into a Transformational Home!

Peace,
Ben

Ministries & Missions

The March 14 Tuesday lunch program caught Locust Leaves editor Gene Baumann completely off guard. As he prepared to photograph the program following the carry-in dinner, Coordinator Helen Brown announced that the program was a surprise to one person in the audience.

As proof that the congregation can keep a secret, it was planned to thank Gene for his many years of editing the church newsletter and recording church activities with his camera.

A number of those attending had brought thank you cards, others spoke their thanks as Gene reviewed his years of involvement in church and community activities. See his response to the program in this month's Back Row column.

Tuesday Lunch Surprise



SAVE THE DATE

What: 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt and Lunch with the Easter Bunny

When: Saturday, April 8, 2023

11:00 Register for Easter Egg hunt

11:30 Egg Hunt

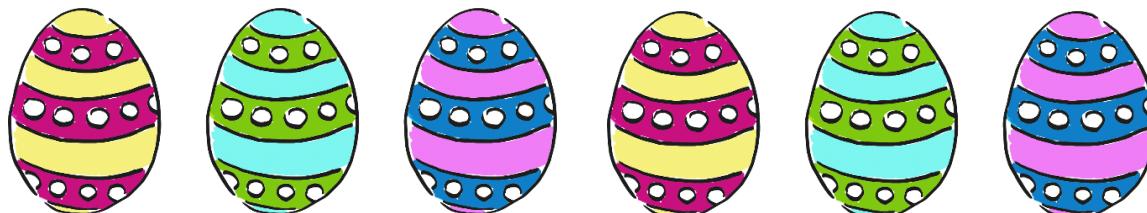
12:00 Lunch with the Easter Bunny

Who: Children age 1 - 5th Grade

*We asked for donations of Easter candy and plastic eggs. You came through once again for the children of our congregation. Thank you!!

We need to help the Easter Bunny.

At 1:00 on Thursday March 30, we filled hundreds of plastic eggs for the community wide Egg Hunt on Saturday April 8. A special thanks to those who donated plastic eggs and candy and those who assembled the search targets.





GORGEOUS GIRLS

Join us for lunch!

Monday, April 24, 11:00
Angelo's
4107 S. Providence Road
Columbia

Let Kathy Koehler know if you'd like to come
 kkoehler1976@gmail.com

***Check the Bulletin Boards
 in Fellowship Hall
 for information and inspiration.***

Thanks to **Angie Gerzen**
 for preparing these boards.

Happy Birthday

April 2023

3 Nora Fuemmeler	17 Will Green
4 Gene Baumann	18 Leslie Durrant
9 Bill Graff	22 Jerry Wirth
11 Denise Moore	23 Barb Sumner
11 Amie Butler	26 Garrison Gessling
16 Mandy Crane	27 Lynda Baumgartner

If someone's name does not appear here and they do have a birthday this month, please let us know by email and we will update our records.



"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord." Can anyone hear this verse without singing the song in their head?

I cherish moments of joy. Like the evening of February 22nd when I stepped out onto the porch and heard the spring peepers for the first time this year. That first sign of spring made me stop and listen and smile. Such a simple thing but it brought me such a moment of pure joy. There is something joyful about the first signs of spring. Whether it be peepers or the first daffodils of the season, spring brings renewal. The Bible says, "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land."

As I get older, I seem to be more purposeful in finding joy. Maybe it's because the hustle and bustle of life has slowed down now that my boys are out of the house. Maybe it's because the last few years have been challenging for all of us and I appreciate those moments more. Whatever it is, seeking out joy makes life more beautiful.

I hear joy in



By Missy Barnes

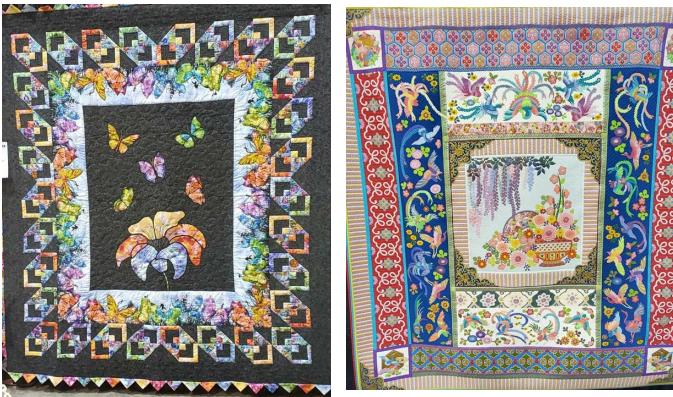
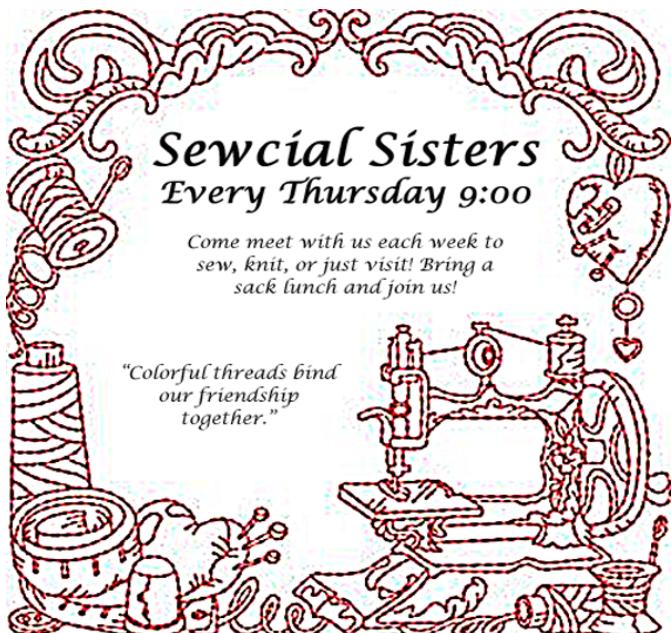
my husband's laughter as he tickles our youngest grandson who giggles with delight. I see joy as my older grandson gleefully plays in our yard with a chicken tucked under his arm. I see joy in my puppy as he learns to catch a Frisbee. I find joy in walking my dogs in the mornings. Our path is quiet and peaceful and I love the pure innocence of a puppy bouncing along looking for invisible dangers. I see joy in my job-something I had lost over the last few years but am happy to say I have found again.

I look around the sanctuary on a Sunday morning and I see the joy that our church is bringing to both the young and the wiser. I see the joy on Beth Leutjen's face as she sings in the choir. I see the joy that Ben exudes from the pulpit as the holy spirit speaks through him.

Take a moment and find your joy. Look at the trees budding out. Look up to the sky to see the eagles flying overhead. Look for

flowers coming up from the newly greening grass. Spring is the perfect time to find moments of joy. Make a joyful noise unto the Lord!





Sewcial Sisters in Branson

Kathy Koehler, Barb Harville, Kathy Hughes, Mariea Caruthers, and Margaret Preus enjoyed getting away in late March for a three-day trip to Branson, Missouri, for the Second Annual Branson Quilt Show. Of course, stopping along the way down to Branson at different quilt stores was half the fun.

The show was set up at the Hilton Convention Center in downtown Branson. There were 12-14 phenomenal quilts, displayed by artists who had conceived their own patterns and designs, and quilted their own creations. These masterful works must have taken many hundreds of hours to complete.

The rest of the show was dedicated to vendors from all over the U.S. selling machines, furniture, tools of every kind, fabric, and patterns of every style and description. There were also vendors selling comfort items for the quilter's weary body.

Our last night we met in one of the hotel rooms and had a show and tell session to see what treasures each one of us ended up bringing home.

We also enjoyed eating out together especially, and enjoyed special time together.

Margaret Preus

**Join us for
Second Tuesday Lunch
April 11, Noon.
Bring a dish
and a friend.**

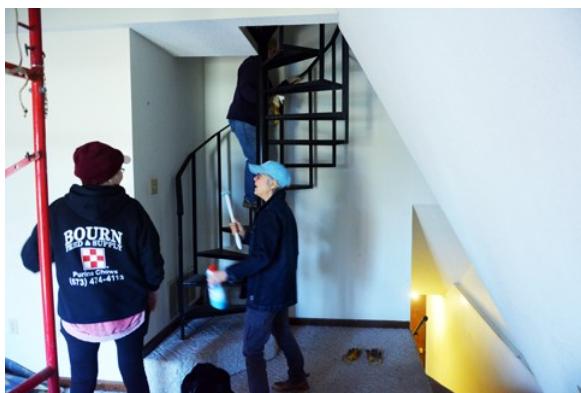
Gifted A-frame property gets cleanup for potential mission use

A note from Marsha Coleman...

You guys are awesome..... we had, I believe, 22 people at the AFrame cleanup and we were able to accomplish soooo much in a very short time. I feel very fortunate to be able to call you all friends and a very huge thank you goes out to everyone.

Thank you ... thank you ... thank you.





Following a morning of concentrated effort in cleaning and disposing of unwanted leftovers, the group enjoyed lunch on the deck, burgers prepared by Rev. Ben and Ron Utterback on Ben's mobile grill.





SAVE THE DATE

Vacation Bible School

June 11th-14th 2023

5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Midway Locust Grove Church

Kids ages 3 – 5th grade

*More information about registration and volunteering in May.



Our Church is Sparkling!!

After a warm-up workday March 20 at our newly-gifted A-Frame (See Page 8), attention turned to the church property for its annual spring cleanup. Thanks to over 20 volunteers of all ages who worked on Saturday, March 25 to spruce up the grounds and clean and polish the interior. We are ready for Easter Week. A special thank you to Jeanne Brawner and Gyla Elmore for providing a tasty lunch.



*(Continued
on Page 9)*





The Kitchen Cabinet

Remembering
Mary Kaye's
Food Ministry

Easter is finally here! Grass is turning green, trees are getting their leaves, tulips and daffodils are blooming. I found this old family recipe for a Green Jell-O Salad. A nice side dish for Easter lunch.

Enjoy,

Hope Burkart

Green Jell-O Salad

1 (3 oz) box lime Jell-O
 1 (3 oz) box lemon Jell-O
 1 1/2 cup hot water
 1 (16 oz) container cottage cheese
 1 (20 oz) can crushed pineapple (drain well)
 1 cup mayo
 1/2 lemon, juiced *optional - recipe OK without this
 1 cup chopped pecans

In large bowl, dissolve lime and lemon Jell-O in 1 1/2 cp hot water. Add remaining ingredients and stir, make sure to mix thoroughly. Spoon into mold or glass dish and refrigerate until firm.

*God promises
a safe landing,
not a calm passage.*

Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp date set for July 30—August 4

We are excited to announce that we have secured a group hold at Turkey Hill Ranch Bible Camp for July 30 – August 4, 2023!

This camp is for children ages 8–13. The camp is 5 days and is located in Vienna, MO. Drop off is Sunday afternoon and pick up is Friday afternoon. You can find more details and information at www.turkeyhillranch.com.

We had several MLG kids attend last year and it is always a lot of fun. The cost of the camp is \$250 per camper and that includes a t-shirt and all meals/amenities for the week.

If you would like to register, please visit the website and use the group code "MLG" when registering. Registration deadline is April 14th, but we recommend registering early as our group could fill fast.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Jessie Kempf (jessica@weichertft.com) or Shayla Roop (sroop@cpsk12.org); they will be happy to provide more details.

Church Directory to get photos



The updated church directory has been published and is available in the Fellowship Hall. It will be reprinted with photos this spring. Please have your family photo taken in the sanctuary immediately following worship for the next few Sundays.

Midway Locust Grove
United Methodist Church

*Basic necessities free of charge
to those temporarily in need*

Open April 6 & 20

Twice blessed

**Open 1st & 3rd Thursdays
12:00 – 5:00**

The little white building
on the corner of
Henderson and Locust Grove Church Road



MIDWAY STUDENTS



In addition to his role as Director of Student Ministries, Evan Hughes assumed a new role March 26 as he delivered a well-received sermon for worship service. His message centered around John 11, verses 1-45 with the take-home thought of “Learning to rely on Jesus eliminates our hopeless belief.”

TREASURY NOTES

By Nedra Moreau

Editor's note: Our treasurer Nedra Moreau is recuperating from a recent surgery and has been unable to process the information needed to issue a monthly report. She has, however, made a general evaluation based on excellent contributions for the month of March, and declares a good financial report. Best wishes to Nedra for a speedy and comfortable recovery from her surgery.

**Join us for Second Tuesday Lunch
April 11 at 12:00 noon.
Bring a dish and a friend**



M I D W A Y
LOCUST GROVE
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2600 N. Locust Grove Church Road
Columbia, MO 65202



Pastor: Rev. Ben Lee
Church phone: 573-445-4667
Pastor's cell phone: 478-447-4438
Email: mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
Email: blee.mwlocustgrove@gmail.com
Facebook: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.facebook.com/mwlocustgrove)
YouTube: [mwlocustgrove](https://www.youtube.com/mwlocustgrove)
Instagram: [@mwlocustgrove](https://www.instagram.com/mwlocustgrove)

Ministers: The Congregation

Our Mission:

To celebrate God's presence in everything we do, bring our neighbors to Jesus and fellowship in our church family, develop them to be followers of Jesus, and equip them for service ministry and life missions to communicate God's word, in order to magnify God's name.

Locust Leaves Editor: Gene Baumann
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Find the hidden Bible in this issue.

Visit our Web Site: www.mwlocustgrove.com

Volume 36 Issue 4 April 2023

If we had a Message Board...



The Back Row By Gene Baumann

Our Second Tuesday lunches are living proof how great a gathering of friends sharing their culinary creations can be.

When you add an interesting program after lunch, it gets even better.

When you are the surprise subject of discussion at the program, it just doesn't get any better. I speak with authority on this, thanks to Helen Brown and those attending the March luncheon.

To be thanked for doing the things you love doing is at first a bit disconcerting and deemed unnecessary, but that feeling soon goes away as you realize what great friends you have collected around you.

In the 42 years of my working career, I

edited publications in varying degrees, so it only seems natural that I continue doing that in my now two-decade retirement by putting together your Locust Leaves newsletter each month . . . with the help of many of your contributions, of course. I am proud of our product and your willingness to share information with those who have chosen to worship at Locust Grove.

I recently was asked about when a significant thing happened at our church. My memory failed me, but my collection of Locust Leaves came to the rescue and provided the information after a brief search. It reaffirmed my conviction that Locust Leaves is an important means of preserving our history of serving our generations of families who worship here.

Thank you for your applause. All I can say is, "Aw, shucks!"